

To: Wisniewski, Patti-Kay[Wisniewski.Patti-Kay@epa.gov]; Werner, Lora[Werner.Lora@epa.gov]; Burns, Francis[Burns.Fran@epa.gov]
From: Helverson, Robert
Sent: Tue 1/21/2014 9:29:14 PM
Subject: Re: expect contact from Andy Whelton

Hi Patti-Kay and Fran,
Thanks for addtl. info. I don't know that our agency will weigh on the flushing process outlined by the state/facility. Maybe EPA has more knowledge on flushing public water systems?

Also, with the new info on the glycol phenol ethers also spilled on the 9th, have you heard whether EPA will be responding now under and additional regulatory authorities?

Bob

From: Wisniewski, Patti-Kay
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 4:21:31 PM
To: Helverson, Robert; Werner, Lora
Cc: Arguto, William
Subject: RE: expect contact from Andy Whelton

Here is a link to his website, with a second link to an article based on a reporter interview with Dr. Whelton that speaks to flushing.
<http://www.southce.org/ajwhelton/>

The only addition to the flushing guidance is:

Whelton said he's been advising residents based on a modified guideline, similar to what West Virginia American Water issued customers last week.

"We have advised homeowners to shut off their hot water heater, open all their windows and exterior doors, then do the flushing," Whelton said. "You need to flush your system as much as possible at the present time to remove the contaminated water."

The original guidelines recommended people flush their hot taps for 15 minutes, then cold taps for 5 minutes.

The full article is at:
<http://www.wowktv.com/story/24501627/independent-researchers-conduct-in-home-sampling>

I believe that the additional advice is reasonable, given that this is volatile. One reason to turn off the hot water heater (and what he really means is stop the flow of new water into the tank) is so that it does not fill while trying to empty it, which may prevent full flushing.

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From: Helverson, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:50 AM

To: Wisniewski, Patti-Kay; Werner, Lora
Subject: Re: expect contact from Andy Whelton

Hi Patti-Kay. Thanks, certainly not good if people aren't following health protective recommendations for this issue. I am not in the office today as I returned home late last night from Charleston. I will discuss this with Lora, but I am pretty sure this discussion could occur only after we speak w our HQ. Does EPA have an opinion regarding these suggested flushing measures or other steps. Have they been made public?

Bob

From: Wisniewski, Patti-Kay
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:43:22 AM
To: Helverson, Robert
Subject: expect contact from Andy Whelton

Bob,

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Alabama Univ, is with a team in the field interviewing the public about this experience and in particular he is reporting that 7 of 10 households have NOT flushed their lines. Much of this is driven by fear.

I thought if anyone could look into these concerns further, it might be ATSDR. His concern is a public health issue still exists within the homes, even if not in the distribution system.

Patti Kay, 4-5668

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